



July 21, 2005

Bank robber is sentenced to 70 months in federal prison

A federal judge has sentenced **Eric LeFrancois**, of Woonsocket, to 70 months in federal prison for a robbery at a Fleet Bank branch in Woonsocket in 2003.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which Chief U.S. District Court Judge Ernest C. Torres imposed yesterday in U.S. District Court, Providence.

Judge Torres also ordered LeFrancois, 30, of 71 Laurier Street, to repay the bank \$1,564.

In February, LeFrancois pleaded guilty to bank robbery. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee said the government had proof that, on February 26, 2003, in the Fleet Bank at 2020 Diamond Hill Road, LeFrancois handed a teller a threatening note demanding money. The teller gave him \$1,564 and he fled the bank.

A week later, the driver of a getaway car in a robbery in Fall River identified LeFrancois as his accomplice and said LeFrancois had also told him of the Fleet robbery. The Fleet teller later identified LeFrancois as the robber.

Woonsocket Police and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** investigated the robbery. **Fall River Police** provided assistance. Assistant U.S. Attorney Chafee prosecuted the case.

-30-

Contact: 401-709-5032

Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov